

Urgent Action Update - Siamak Pourzand

12 December 2001

Further information on UA 298/01 (MDE 13/046/2001, 27 November 2001) - Disappearance/possible extrajudicial execution

IRAN **Siamak Pourzand (m), intellectual and manager of the
Majmue-ye Farhangi-ye Honari-ye Tehran (Tehran Cultural Centre)**

It appears that Siamak Pourzand was arrested after he left his sister's house in central Tehran on 24 November. There has not been, as far as Amnesty International is aware, official acknowledgement that he is in custody.

On 7 December his sister, Mahin Pourzand, was reportedly told to bring a change of clothes for him to the Ostad Motahhari Street office the Committee for Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice. When she asked where her brother was and what he had been charged with, she was reportedly told that it was none of her business. This organisation maintains discipline on matters of morality, such as dress codes, consumption of alcohol and mixing of the sexes.

On 10 December an Iranian television station based in the United States broadcast an interview with one of his daughters, Banafshéh Zand. A student reportedly called the station afterwards and said he had seen Siamak Pourzand "last week" at the Eshratabad prison, in north central Tehran. He apparently told them that Siamak Pourzand was "clean" and in good health.

Amnesty International wrote to the Head of the Judiciary on the same day, seeking urgent clarification of the fate of Siamak Pourzand.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, French or your own language:

- urging the Head of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Intelligence to reveal where and when Siamak Pourzand was arrested, and to make public where he is detained and what charges he faces;
- expressing concern that he appears to be a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs;
- urging the authorities that, unless he is to be charged with an internationally recognised criminal offence, Siamak Pourzand should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- reminding the authorities of their obligations under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and

impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice."

APPEALS TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei,
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue,
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

President

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami
The Presidency, Palestine Avenue
Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: President Khatami, Tehran, Iran

E-mail: khatami@president.ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

His Excellency Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahrudi
Ministry of Justice
Park-e Shahr
Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Head of Judiciary, Tehran, Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 879 6671 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of Director of International Affairs, Judiciary")

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Intelligence

His Excellency Hojjatoleslam 'Ali Younesi
Second Negarestan Street
Pasdaran Avenue

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Intelligence Minister, Tehran, Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs,

His Excellency Kamal Kharrazi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Av
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Tehran, Iran

Faxes: + 98 21 390 1999 (number may be unreliable; please mark "care of the Human Rights Department, Foreign Ministry)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mohsen Mirdamadi Najafabadi
Article 90 Commission (Komisyon-e Asl-e Navad), Majles-e Shura-ye Eslami, Imam
Khomeini Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telegrams: Majles, Tehran, Iran
Telex: 21 42 32 ICAI IR
Faxes: + 98 21 646 1746 (Can be difficult to reach, please be patient)
Salutation: Dear Sir

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International
Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 January 2002

